



**Antonio Salazar**  
Chief of Police



City of Las Vegas  
Police Advisory Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 3:00 pm

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the City of Las Vegas Police Advisory Commission Meeting was called to order on Thursday, October 21, 2021 on Google meet by Chairman Roy Montibon.

### **Members Present**

Lee Einer, Kimberly Blea, Mary Helen Wickert, Roy Montibon and Joe Whiteman.

### **Also Present**

Chief Antonio Salazar and Terri Pearce from Tri-County Family Justice Center

### **Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by Kimberly Blea for approval of agenda as second by Lee Einer. motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Lee Einer to approve minutes for September 16, 2021 second by Mary Helen Wickert motion carried.

### **Public Input**

No public input submitted and no one present for public input.

### **Unfinished business**

#### **1. City Ordinance drafts for LV Police Advisory Commission:**

Lee informs members there were two (2) drafts that were put forward. Lee states its council call. R. Montibon recommends putting together a set of notes to submit to the council on their point of view from this commission. Lee asks if Montibon is proposing that members



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draft those ordinances and that they'll be submitted to the City Council at a future meeting? Montibon: suggest to expedite the process so that we don't spend another month on this. Mary Helen asks what's actually the function at the Commission because that will tell how we can proceed; is the commission going to review complaints or advising chief about these are the key points Mary Helen wants to know.

Lee reads Commission 6.05 B powers and duties from the city charter: the governing body shall established by ordinance the powers and duties of the commission which shall act in an advisory capacity through the governing body regarding police policies and procedures complaints regarding police activity that have been received by the city and such other matters as the governing body made. Lee says that the commission will be reviewing complaints. Mr. Montibon adds along with other functions that the council would give the commission. Montibon adds we can review what's required comments from this commission and will compile it into a document. Mr Montibon says that we can post those along with the next minutes on the agenda for public review. deadline for submission to do this in the next week. Mr. Montibon does not want to miss any council meeting deadlines. Mr. Montibon asks for the feedback by Thursday of next week.

Mary Helen asks do we submit drafts to you? Mr. Montibon as a chairman can submit all together. R Montibon says yes.

Mr. Montibon asks Kimberly if she has any thoughts? Kimberly is verifying that this commission is submitting feedback on what our role and responsibilities are based on the two draft documents? Mr Montibon answers yes; some examples Mary Helen just felt like you looked at the two drafts. The language is really vague. Montibon also states that we need to add our feedback on these drafts on what the role is as a commission beyond just reviewing citizen complaints. This will be helpful although in that council meeting where Councilman Romero and City Attorney discussed and commented on they did mention that they needed to get back on track with the police Commission. Mr Montibon says that the commission should do what they need to do in writing. However the Councilman Romero and Scott Aaron formally request feedback from the commission. Mr. Montibon entertains a motion from the Commission to send feedback to the City Council by drafting something pertaining to the ordinance: Lee makes a motion and a second by Kimberly motion is carried.

## **New Business:**

### **1. Representative from Tri-County Family Justice Center**

Chief Salazar announces Terri Pearce from the Tri-county Justice center has joined the meeting to talk about the Services they offer. Chief Salazar also makes the commission aware that today is a day of unity for domestic violence.





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Terri Pearce announces to the commission that there will be a Candlelight Vigil for survivors of Domestic Violence tonight at the Plaza park.

T Pearce tells members that she has been with Tri-county since 2005 at the office located at Ridgerunner road behind the LV Walmart.

T. Pearce tells members they provide services for children parents non offending parents to reconnect and strengthen that relationship again Tri-county also provides therapy group for grief and loss they also offer provide holistic programs such as acupuncture and massage which is very important for the health and the mental health for the stress and suffering that survivors and victims have gone through. Tri-county provides advocacy and support and this is basic case management to help survivors with resources, referrals and different things of that sort. The center also helps with restraining orders, support and help survivors to the court during this process. They have therapy and group therapy for survivors. The Tri county area they oversee are; San Miguel, Mora and Guadalupe. The Sheriff's Office in Mora has clients as well and come into Las Vegas because the towns are small. Tri County provides virtual services specially during the COVID and provides in house services and direct services at the agency. Tri County provides education skills building things of that sort. Tri County is in the process of getting a committee together and to develop a shelter. This has been the process for some time for quite a few years. T Pearce is trying to get a committee together with people who are interested in having a shelter in Las Vegas and finding ways to get funding to build that shelter etc. Tri County is at the early stages of that process. Tri County also provides education teen dating violence and domestic violence Tri county area probably is one of the only domestic violence agencies that goes out there and does collaboration with the DA's office. The case management Tri county helps with is childcare, they also help with connections and different resources such as restraining orders safety their main goal is to help women and families going to shelters when necessary or safe houses when necessary. Tri County partners mainly with law enforcement and District Attorney they have 26 partners within the community that work with to include CYFD and different agencies. T Pearce has been working with law enforcement since 2007 and has a very good relationship with law enforcement. Law enforcement sends us the restraining orders along with CYFD and different agencies. Victims can go in and self refer but enforcement is our main source of referrals. During this process tri county has developed programs that became virtual, where they can still provide services to clients in a safe manner. T Pearce says since working with Antonio, Chief of police Tri-county has received the most referrals for organizations. It is very important that the officers understand the process of helping victims of domestic violence. T Pearce said, Chief Salazar has had some meetings with her and has agreed to allow Tri-county to go in and train the officers on restraining orders. It is important to have these training because you have new officers coming in and some not trained on special temporary restraining orders



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or emergency restraining orders. officers learn the process of working with the restraining orders, how to fill them, we also train them on some of the domestic laws that have come out etc. Tri-county also works with the State Police and the Sheriff's Department. Tri County has a 24 hour domestic violence advocate who is located at State police. Tri-county works closely with Kimberly at highlands in reference to working with interns for therapy and for advocacies within the facility. T Pearce is on the coalition for domestic violence board of directors, so at any time if anyone would like to speak to her in reference to anything that you have questions on in reference to domestic violence please feel free to contact her. Another program is their holistic program; they teach relaxation meditation tapping and different forms of techniques for victims to relax etc. such as Chinese medicine teaching about herbs and how different things are. They also have a dress for success program where we have clothes, jewelry and makeup for different things, if survivors need to go to court to apply for a job they have access. They also have a workout program in their organization where survivors can workout and workout videos, this is useful when survivors can't go into Vegas and into the rec center and start workout because they're afraid they might come in contact with the perpetrators there. that was developed about two years ago. The survivors can use this at any time. Tri county works with children where they have a specialty program where the children are now receiving therapy and different group rooms for children. The group rooms for skills and development resume writing just about everything. The organization Tri county has about 98% clientele that are women but they also work with men. They work with any person who is experiencing violence in their life but has to be domestic violence. Tri County does not work with civil cases. Sometimes they have people who are referred over for civil cases, They cannot handle civil cases with restraining orders or in any other manner, only Domestic Violence. Tri county was located at Dee Bibb but moved their location to Ridge Runner in 2010. Tri County received money from legislation to build a building they decided to build in Ridge runner area since they were surrounded by continuum of services within the organization so the organization is built in a circle, the motor vehicles services CYFD etc so that we can utilize the services all the way around. Tri County provides for about 600 clients a year to include any kind of training and education. Tri county gives training to the schools beginning with Middle school. The Oasis service provides support therapies so they can teach a lot of techniques about anything. There are two major funders of the New Mexico Mormons organization out of Santa Fe and they actually oversee our holistic programs at the small organization where the workers have multiple hats. Their main focus is to help people who have unfortunately been in situations of domestic flight. There has been some discussion about maybe seeing houses and shelters. T Pearce wanted to let the commission know that they are in the beginning process of looking into that and the committee of course it takes a long time to get that going. There are two ways that they're looking at the building being built such as being placed on ridge runner road close to Tri-county facilities.



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Possibly renting a place in the city or buying the building in the city. They are looking at different options on how they want to proceed with a shelter. T Pearce mentions that everybody knows that we have officers in our building. They never had problems with perfect strangers and because they have the police in the building. When women go into our organization safely they also do treatment plans, assessment skills building etc in helping.

T Pearce reminds members of the candlelight vigil where District Attorney Tom Clayton will be in the celebration of those survivors who have received help and those who have passed they want to honor those from domestic violence The Vigil starts at 6:00 o'clock at the Plaza where everyone will see purple ribbons throughout the city and that's because it's domestic violence month and they want to make the public aware of domestic violence. To remind people to know what method to use and not to be silent and report domestic violence. Tri County wants to make people know that they have services within the community so that people can have a life free from violence. T Pearce says its great organization in the community where through the family justice centers from San Diego the president the lions there are 13 organizations out of the United states but there was probably thousands of applications and if all goes but he picks 14 organizations proceed with the domestic violence agencies family justice matters only just the center was one of the first organizations through this president so the smallest world organization from the family Justice Center although we do the same work just in the smaller city sisters of the family justice centers offered in the United states where now and then Mexico or reading work or just all over now so even internationally in Europe and those steps the places.

Terri informs once again where they are located: at 2534 Ridge runner T Pearce will give her information to members on the chat if they need further information or know somebody who's in the situation and how they can help with domestic violence or friend or family member whatever the situation. Tri County plans to do a lot more advertising and will be more out in the field. T Pearce says now that restrictions have lifted they will doing more of our services direct services rather than virtual unless the survivors are asking to only have the virtual services at this time of course we following all CDC rules and guidelines in the process also looking for an advocate and therapist and additional so if anybody

Kimberly Blea tells Terri that she is on the board president of kids counseling and something that we've been able to do in bringing us there to fulfill the need for a therapist is offering.

Terri responds by saying that might be an option and will be able to recruit some therapists and with kids counseling they refer to quote counseling with the children but now they started their new program but all their children are going to be working in their facility with their therapist they look in 10 year old too to refer down to kids counseling because of course there's other children who aren't in the domestic violence.

The waiting list for children is pretty large right now and speaking in small communities.





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Mr. Montibon asks a question some are behalf of the public or probably watching live right now first question;

1. Can you define the difference between domestic and civil violence?

Terri answers by saying Intimate partner, somebody you live with, someone who's living in your house, boyfriend or a husband or that aspect.

Mr. Montibon asks, does this include stalkers?

Terri says stalking sexual and domestic violence It's very difficult to prove so they work with the survivors in the process of their stalking and how do they go about that.

Mr. Montibon asks 2nd question;

2. What is the limitation on getting a restraining order? Montibon has heard different things. Does it have to be a husband or partner so even if the boyfriend is not living in the house

Terri answers by saying an intimate partner.

Montibon asked in terms of your various services, are they applied across the board? do they have access to the Oasis services etc or is there a criteria?

Terri tells members they must meet the criteria of intimate partner, they have to have abuse, they can witness domestic violence, have grown up in the past with violence, from a past partner but they're not having domestic violence right now in their situation.

Types of Domestic violence are by getting slapped, punched, pushing it could be financial where they're not allowed to have access to their money that could be emotional psychological.

Montibon asked if they evaluate?

Terri continues to say they can't work with perpetrators or offenders at any point. offenders aren't even allowed in the area or in the building at that time. however there are still survivors who are with their offenders and we support them so there's no judgment on the survivors and their decision in reference to their lives and where they're at and they still support them

Montibon asks if T. Pearce can talk a bit about the difference between a safe house and a shelter?

Terri: explains a safe house for children is where they go in two separate rooms and one, for the advocate and the child where the advocate speaking with the child and it's being filmed and the other is for maybe police officers attorneys or whoever's in her watching as they are processing that and those videos are taken to court trials or whatever is happening that's one way.

Another way could be with a safe house is shelters house immediate shelters it might be in a one night space or they just need maybe two nights in the safe house until they can get them wherever else. A Shelter is a longer period where we have therapist advocates, where they can take their children and they can get services. That's what this small town in Vegas



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needs.

Montibon asks one more question?

1. Referrals from the police. Can you receive referrals that are not from the police  
Can someone else submit referrals, for example a mother for a daughter.

Terri answers by saying referrals can be done by anybody like a neighbor or anyone, however once we get the referral and we connect with the client the confidentiality is very stern so we can't talk to mothers or fathers we can't even talk to the police officer, courts until that survivor gives us permission and has to be a written permission. The survivor must have taken control of her situation and if she doesn't want us to speak to anybody we don't do so until we have to have permission, and that's for everything that they do. when a client comes into our organization and they bring a support system. The support stays out and we take the survivor in and we do an assessment, an intake and registration with safety planning, where they will have to give us permission to speak to anybody on their behalf and it also has to be very exactly what they were allowed. The confidentiality is very high at the organization.

Montibon thanks Terri for all the work that she and her team does.

Mary Helen tells T. Pearce welcomes her and says thanks for joining the LVPAC meeting. Mary Helen has a couple of questions on the shelter and safe house situation.

1. Does the center have an agreement or some support from the local hotels that on occasion they could donate a room? And are there agreements within the community?

Terri answers by saying that she cannot go into detail with that, due to the safety of the clients especially since this meeting is public. If any of the members would like to know more information she would be happy to reach out to any of them. Mary Helen served on another commission and they arranged some kind of agreement with the lodgers community in town and various hotels helped donate a certain number of nights or a period of time for emergency situations. T Pearce tells Mary Helen for a shelter they have to go out to Santa Fe and Taos. Mary Helen says that could help to expand some of the resources.

Mary Helen asks T Pearce to explain to the members of the Commission and all other people who are participating the significance of strangulation as opposed to other types of domestic abuse and of course this is a huge topic always certainly among the anti abuse community and of course it's become a nationwide and international focus because of the Gabby Petito case. Mary Helen asks T. Pearce to explain to the viewers and commission what the significance is?

Terri explains about strangulation if you're being strangled and people say its choking, T Pearce expresses it's not choking its strangulation. Strangulation is when they're putting their hands around your neck of course it's 750 times more likely that you could die from



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domestic violence so that's pretty significant also, with strangulation people can pass away a day later, it could happen within a week or a month. If you're being strangled your chances of being murdered are very high compared to other aspects of domestic violence 750 times more than other domestic violence situations which is very high. Mary Helen goes on and says; in other words, particularly in focus on anger on the spectrum from minor if list such a thing minor domestic abuse two fatalities it tends towards the fatality end of the spectrum? T Pearce says definitely yes, and definitely you're more at risk. Mary Helen says that she does not minimize anything. she is just acknowledging that there's a spectrum with right of course the worst. T Pearce says that they are seeing more strangulation and the devastating effects from strangulation. They are seeing a loss of memory example is when a survivor is interviewed they forget or their stories seemed strange or they are confused about the situation, and that's because of the lack of oxygen that went to the brain when they were strangled. It's one of the many fatal situations when it comes to domestic violence. Mr. Montibon asks other members if they have questions. Kimberly Blea Says she's known Terri for a long time. They worked together as partners and when K Blea was the director of the advocacy center at the university and wanted to thank Terri and her team for continuously serving the community but also in continuing to identify ways to enhance and expand upon the services being offered to survivors of domestic violence in the community. K Blea expresses her Thank you. Terri tells K. Blea Thank you as well and that she has done a great job as well.. T. Pearce adds that all of their services are free, their therapy, advocacy, everything they do is free, nothing is charged at their organization. T. Pearce Thanks members for having her and if everyone can participate with the Candlelight Vigil that would be fantastic. The vigil is to honor survivors and victims of domestic violence God bless them. God bless them and our hearts go out to all of the families who have lost family members due to domestic violence it's a hard thing and it's a hard situation we're going to have a woman on behalf of the family Justice Center speaking about her situation where it has become very successful with the help of Tri county family Justice Center and of course all of her willpower and doing what she did to help herself. T Pearce tells viewers if you're listening please go there and support your community, there is nobody in our community or very few people in our community who want violence around them in their communities in their schools etc so we go out and we go out as young as a middle schools and teach about violence dating violence etc we don't only go to the high schools now we're going into middle schools. R Montibon comments that he agrees with Kimberly that the range of services that the center offers is really impressive and it took you a long time to develop all of that so that's really amazing. T Pearce says Thank you for having her and allowing them to be in the community and helping this way and supporting the people within the community in Las Vegas, Guadalupe which in Santa Rosa and Mora. If you need the Tri County Justice center their phone number is 505-718-7300 Tri county also partners with CBS for after hours if you need





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help they can guide you into getting into a shelter or other aspects of your domestic violence situation. T Pearce reminds everyone once you walk into the organization you're a survivor you've done it that's a big step.

Chief Salazar gives his report: The Police Department has hired seven new employees two of those are certified, seven new vehicles coming in and have been ordered and should be at the department in February. The police dept. has a Lieutenant that has submitted a letter of retirement Lt. Monica Vigil will be retiring this year, we plan to present her with a plaque at the council meeting in November. Members had mentioned in the past that some of you wanted to do the Milo system and kind of see how things are we will be inviting members to come to the Police Department and set up a meeting or a time and we'll get that taken care Starting October 26, In service will begin for new hires so if anyone from the commission would like to attend or sit in the training you are more than welcomed.

R Montibon entertains a motion to adjourn the meeting; Kimberly makes a motion a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lee Meeting is adjourned.

Minutes approved by:

X   
Chairman Roy Montibon